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United States Senate

December 20, 2016

Mr. Brian E. Kamoie
Assistant Administrator, Grants Program Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
400 C Street SW, 3N
Washington, DC 20472-3635

*Re: Jefferson Township Volunteer Fire Department FY 2016 AFG application –
DHS-16-GPD-044-000-99*

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

As Senator from the State of Indiana, I believe it is critical to the safety and quality of life of every Hoosier to have a well-equipped, fully staffed fire department designed to meet the unique safety risks of each community. It can be especially challenging for small, rural communities to acquire the equipment needed. Jefferson Township Volunteer Fire Department (JTVFD), located in Henry County, Indiana is interested in upgrading its Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment in order to reduce the risk of injury and death when they respond to dangerous situations.

Jefferson Township Volunteer Fire Department serves approximately 1,500 residents living within 28 square miles. In addition, it provides mutual aid to surrounding rural townships. Outdated SCBA and associated equipment needs to be replaced without delay in order to provide its firefighters with the protection needed for fire and rescue calls throughout this rural area.

If JTVFD receives this grant, it will be able to purchase SCBA units with PASS device and required accessories in order to maintain 16 complete units. This equipment is needed to meet the current NFPA standard and adequately protect first responders during hazardous operations. Currently, JTVFD operated with just six working packs, placing its personnel at significant risk for injury.

A well-equipped fire department is essential to the safety of our citizens. I encourage a favorable review of the JTVFD application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in accordance with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being notified when a decision is made. Questions and announcements can be directed to my office by contacting Marianne Black at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov or by telephone at (317) 226-5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator